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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FRB-02 TRSE-00 SPM-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-11 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 H-03 L-03 IGA-02

HEW-08 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 OMB-01 ABF-01 OIC-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPOP, UNFPA, UNDP
SUBJ: 17TH SESSION UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: PLENARY
DISCUSSION OF UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR
POPULATION ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY: UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (UNFPA) RECEIVED UNPRECEDENTED PRAISE FROM RECIPIENT AND DONOR GOVERNMENTS IN JANUARY 30 PLENARY OF UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL. ALL LARGE DONORS EXCEPT SWEDEN AND U.S. SWEETENED THEIR TALK WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THEIR PLEDGES FOR 1974. UNFPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SALAS CALCULATED AS A RESULT AS MUCH AS $42 MILLION OF THE $54 MILLION GOAL MAY HAVE BEEN RAISED PROVIDED THE U.S. CONTINUES ITS MATCHING ARRANGEMENT. LOOKING TO 18TH SESSION DELEGATIONS CALLED FOR BETTER SCHEDULING OF UNFPA ITEM AND DISCUSSION OF CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR PROJECT APPROVAL. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDED THAT SESSIONS SURROUNDING WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE GIVE ATTENTION TO THE PROGRAMMING IMPLICATIONS OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY.
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1. TWENTY-THREE DELEGATIONS SPOKE IN PLENARY OF UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL ON JANUARY 30. UNANIMOUS PRAISE WAS GIVEN TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SALAS' MANAGEMENT OF THE UNFPA (RANGING FROM NEW ZEALAND'S REFERENCE TO "DYNAMIC LEADER" TO CUBA'S "GREAT DIPLOMAT"). SATISFACTION WITH PERFORMANCE WAS EXPLICITLY EXPRESSED BY BOTH RECIPIENT AND DONOR NATIONS. SOME DONOR NATIONS SUCH AS CANADARELATED THEIR INCREASED PLEDGE TO THE UNFPA TO ITS IMPROVED OPERATIONS.

2. MOST MAJOR DONORS FORMALLY ANNOUNCED THEIR PLEGES FOR 1974, ALL WITH INCREASES. JAPAN AND THE NETHERLANDS WILL EACH CONTRIBUTE $5 MILLION, WHICH REPRESENT A 100 PERCENT INCREASE FOR JAPAN. NORWAY PLEDGED $2.8 MILLION WHICH WAS ONE OF FEW PLEDGES THAT DOES NOT STILL REQUIRE PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL. CANADA PLEDGED $2.5 MILLION. (NOT A MAJOR DONOR, BUT A SURPRISING PLEDGE CAME FROM BELGIUM WITH $450,000 A TWENTY-FOLD INCREASE OVER THEIR TOKEN CONTRIBUTION LAST YEAR.) GERMANY INCREASED ITS PLEDGE FROM DM 10.5 MILLION TO DM 15 MILLION. THE UK PLEDGE ONE MILLION POUNDS. DENMARK INDICATED THEY HOPED INCREASE THEIR PLEDGE IN 1974. THE U.S. STATED IN THE CONTEXT OF A STATEMENT ABOUT OUR FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE UNFPA OUR INTENTION TO REMAIN A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR IN WORLD POPULATION YEAR 1974 AND BEYOND. SWEDEN DID NOT ANNOUNCE ITS PLEDGE IN PLENARY, BUT HAS TOLD THE USG THEY WILL INCREASE TO $4 OR $5. MILLION IN 1974, AFTER TWO YEARS OF PLATEAUING AT $3 MILLION.

3. SALAS HASTILY CALCULATED AT THE CONCLUSION OF PLENARY THAT WITH THE ANNOUNCED PLEDGES, AND ASSUMING THE U.S. CONTINUED ITS PRESENT (45/55) MATCHING OF OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS, THE UNFPA HAD RAISED $42 MILLION OF ITS 1974 GOAL OF $54 MILLION, LEAVING $12 MILLION MORE TO BE RAISED. (SALAS' CALCULATION DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT MATCH EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS AND THIS WOULD REDUCE THE AMOUNT "RAISED" BY APPROXIMATELY $4 MILLION.)

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4. BECAUSE THE PLENARY SESSION TURNED INTO SOMETHING OF A PLEDGING CONFERENCE, SOME DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED THE JANUARY SESSION MIGHT BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE TIME. THE U.S. STATED THAT ALTHOUGH WE HAD AT THIS AND PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL FAVORED A SERIATIM PLEDGING SESSION WITH UNDP, WE WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY THE VIEWS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS IN THIS REGARD. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AGREED TO BRING CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO THE

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18TH SESSION IN JUNE REGARDING FUND-RAISING AS THERE
WAS A GENERAL DESIRE TO REGULARIZE THE TIME AND
PLACE OF PLEDGING.

5. THE REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND FINACE COMMITTEE
WHICH RECOMMENDED THE APPROVAL OF THE SIX PROJECTS
(SEE USUN 224) BROUGHT BEFORE COUNCIL BY THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR AND THE UNFPA'S FINANCIAL RULES AND
REGULATIONS WITH THREE AMENDMENTS WAS APPROVED BY THE
COUNCIL. A GREEN LIGHT WAS GIVEN BY THE COUNCIL FOR
UNFPA TO BE A CONDUIT FOR FUNDS TO IPPF FOR THOSE TWO
GOVERNMENTS--GERMANY AND JAPAN--WHICH CANNOT MAKE DIRECT
CONTRIBUTIONS TO NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

6. DANISH AND NORWEGIAN DELEGATIONS' REQUEST TO
IMPROVE THE SCHEDULING OF THE UNFPA ITEM AT FUTURE
SESSION WAS EXPANDED UPON BY THE PHILIPPINES' DELEGATE,
WITH U.S. SUPPORT, TO BRING UNFPA BEFORE THE PLENARY
AND REFER IT TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION. THE JANUARY 30 INTERVENTIONS IN PLENARY
MADE IT CLEAR THAT MOST DELEGATIONS ARE UNWILLING TO
HAVE UNFPA RELEGATED SOLELY TO COMMITTEE EXAMINATION.

7. MATTERS CONCERNING UNFPA WHICH WILL COME UP AT 18TH
SESSION IN ADDITION TO REGULARIZING FUND-RAISING ARE
(1) CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR PROJECT APPROVAL, AND
(2) AN INITIAL DISCUSSION OF THE PROGRAMMING IMPLICATIONS
OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION AND ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE LATTER ITEM IS IN ANTICIPATION
OF THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE; MR. SALAS ALSO
RECOMMENDS THAT THIS SUBJECT ALSO BE DISCUSSED AT THE
19TH SESSION FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE.
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